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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Military Information

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. The presence of a special Albanian Division has been noted in Skoplje, formed of Albanians living in Yugoslavia. It is under the command of Ahmed Salih, aged 35, a man small in stature and a hunchback, who is also alleged to be the UDB chief for the Vardar area. This division is being trained for guerrilla warfare in Greece.
2. At the beginning of July 1947, a Russian Division (sic) was observed at Skoplje moving towards Prilep, presumably destined for the Greek frontier. Its armament consisted of light mountain artillery, LMGs, FMGs, flame-throwers and mortars. A native eye-witness stated that this Division was composed exclusively of young volunteers.
3. Partisans of various nationalities wounded during the fighting in Macedonia are sent to Prilep and then to a large hospital in Skoplje. Those who are seriously wounded are also sent to Belgrade and Nis.
4. The construction of a large new airfield was begun at the beginning of July 1947 eight kilometers from Prilep, on the Tetovo-Gostivar road. Russian and Yugoslav engineers are in charge and the laborers are personnel of the Yugoslav Air Force and local civilians. It is alleged that this airfield will be the largest and the most modern in southern Serbia. Work is going ahead rapidly, and it is believed that the airfield will be serviceable by the end of September 1947.
5. On 1 July 1947 three fighter aircraft took off from the Skoplje airfield and probably landed in Greece. Immediately after their flight another squadron of fighters arrived from Nis.

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